

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims 1, 4-5 and 7-26. Claim 18 has been amended to improve its form and claims 2-3, 28 and 30-33 have been canceled. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1, 4-5 and 7-26 were allowed; however, the remaining claims 2 and 3 under consideration by the Examiner were rejected on the basis of the prior art. Specifically, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Feldhaus et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,307,710*, and claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Feldhaus et al.* in view of either *Chasseguet et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,838,395* or *Naudin et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,092,820*.

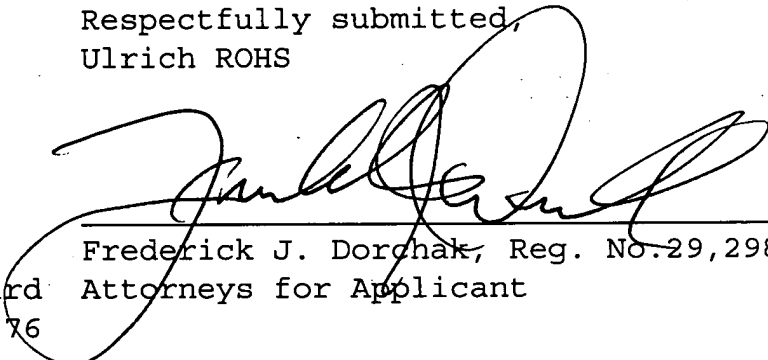
In response, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicant has canceled claims 2 and 3 without prejudice along with claims 28 and 30-33, which the Examiner withdrew from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance as only claims 1, 4-5 and 7-26, which the Examiner has allowed, remain pending.

In summary, claim 18 has been amended and claims 2-3, 28 and 30-33 have been canceled. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the final action and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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